

1 Amendment to the Claims

2 In the Claims:

3 Please amend Claims 40-42, 44, 52-55, 57, and 58 as follows:

4 1-39. (Previously Canceled)

5 40. (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing a plurality of menus to access selected
6 data in a menu database opened with a database program, comprising the steps of:

7 (a) ~~providing a menu template that defines a format for each of the plurality of~~
8 ~~menus, a menu template modifier, and at least one menu database comprising a plurality of database~~
9 ~~records, said menu template modifier being capable of generating a menu based on said menu~~
10 ~~template and the data in said plurality of database records, the menu thus generated including a~~
11 ~~plurality of menu items providing a plurality of database records, a menu template, and a menu~~
12 ~~template modifier, such that each database record:~~

13 (i) corresponds to a previously developed menu that includes a plurality of
14 menu items; and

15 (ii) can be used to re-create the corresponding previously developed menu
16 for display to a user, by using the menu template modifier to modify the menu template in accord
17 with the contents of the database record, the menu template defining the format of the previously
18 developed menu;

19 (b) enabling a user to select a desired menu from the menu database one of the
20 previously developed menus;

21 (c) using said menu template modifier, said menu template, and a database record
22 to generate the desired menu corresponding to the previously developed menu selected by the user to
23 re-create the previously developed menu selected by the user, said database record corresponding to
24 the previously developed menu selected by the user defining an appearance and a functionality of the
25 menu items included within the desired menu previously developed menu selected by the user;

26 (d) displaying said desired menu to a user desired menu the recreation of the
27 previously developed menu to the user to enable the user to select at least one of said plurality of
28 menu items, said menu items the database record corresponding to the previously developed menu
29 selected by the user including that is selected having a database record that includes at least one event
30 associated with the menu item that was selected; and

1 (e) in response to the menu item being selected by the user, causing said at least
2 one of the plurality of events included in the database record event associated with the menu item that
3 was selected, to occur.

4 41. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40, wherein the step of ~~enabling said at~~
5 ~~least one of a plurality of events to occur~~ causing said at least one event associated with the menu
6 item that was selected to occur comprises at least one of the steps of displaying an additional menu,
7 displaying an image, displaying textual data, playing audio data, playing audio-visual data, playing
8 video data, connecting to hyperlinked data, connecting to a webpage, establishing a telephonic
9 connection, changing the menu database, displaying another menu, and selecting another menu item.

10 42. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 41, wherein the database record includes a
11 plurality of events associated with the menu item selected by the user, further comprising the step of
12 providing a sequencer component that determines an order in which [[a]] the plurality of events
13 associated with [[a]] the menu item should occur and implements a timing function for causing the
14 plurality of events to occur in said order.

15 43. (Original) The method of Claim 41, further comprising the step of enabling the user to
16 disable sequencer events and the timer function, so that the user can bypass data with which the user
17 is familiar and navigate through a sequence of menus more rapidly.

18 44. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 41, wherein the plurality of database
19 records define a plurality of previously developed menus that are sequential, further comprising the
20 [[steps]] step of enabling the user to select at least one of a sequence of menu databases, a sequence
21 of menus, and a sequence of menu items, by selecting a single menu item;

22 (a) ~~providing a plurality a database records that define a plurality of sequential~~
23 ~~menus; and~~

24 (b) ~~enabling the user to select at least one of a sequence of menu databases, a~~
25 ~~sequence of menus, and a sequence of menu items, by selecting a single menu item.~~

26 45. (Original) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the step of providing a tracker
27 component that records each menu item selected.

28 46. (Original) The method of Claim 45, wherein when an additional menu is displayed to a
29 user, said tracker generates a textual report of menu items selected by a user on an immediately
30 preceding menu.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 45, further comprising the step of
2 enabling a user to generate a report that includes each previously selected menu item, said report
3 being usable to provide results of a questionnaire comprising the menu items displayed to the user
4 from which the user selected specific menu items.

5 48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the steps of
6 providing a timer function that automates display of successive menus, and enabling a user to
7 selectively enable and disable said timer function.

8 49. (Original) The method of Claim 40, wherein the menu template displays the plurality of
9 menu items in a spatial organization so that each menu item has a one-to-one relationship with a
10 corresponding one of at least a portion of a plurality of keys on a keyboard input device.

11 50. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein the spatial organization of the menu items
12 generally duplicates a spatial organization of at least a portion of a plurality of keys on a numeric
13 keypad.

14 51. (Original) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the steps of providing an edit
15 function with the menu template modifier, and enabling a user to selectively edit one of a desired
16 menu and a desired menu item in a menu with the menu template modifier.

17 52. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture adapted for use with a computing device,
18 comprising:

19 (a) a memory medium; and

20 (b) a plurality of machine instructions stored on the memory medium, which when
21 executed by a processor of the computing device, cause the processor to:

22 (i) enable a user to select a ~~desired menu~~ database record corresponding to
23 a previously developed menu in a menu database opened in a database program, the previously
24 developed menu having been saved as a database record that can be used in conjunction with a menu
25 template and a menu template modifier to re-create the previously developed menu, to reduce an
26 amount of memory required to store the previously developed menu;

27 (ii) access [a] the menu template, [a] the menu template modifier, and a
28 plurality of database records in which data are included the database record corresponding to the
29 previously developed menu, the database record including data that define an appearance of the

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1 ~~desired menu~~ previously developed menu, and an appearance and functionality for a plurality of
2 menu items included in the ~~desired menu~~ previously developed menu;

3 (iii) use the menu template, the menu template modifier, and the ~~plurality of~~
4 ~~database records~~ database record corresponding to the previously developed menu to recreate the
5 ~~desired menu~~ previously developed menu;

6 (iv) display ~~said desired menu~~ the recreation of the previously developed
7 menu to a user to enable a user to select at least one of a plurality of menu items; and

8 (v) enable at least one of a plurality of events associated with the menu
9 item that was selected to occur in response to the selection of the menu item.

10 53. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 52, wherein said menu
11 template defines a format in which the menu items in the ~~desired menu~~ previously developed menu are
12 displayed so that a layout of the menu items generally duplicates a layout of at least a portion of a
13 plurality of keys on a keyboard input device.

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1 54. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to access data in a menu database
2 opened with a database program, using a plurality of predefined menus, comprising:

3 (a) a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions are stored;
4 (b) a display;
5 (c) a keyboard input device comprising a plurality of keys; and
6 (d) a processor that is coupled to the display and to the memory to access the
7 machine instructions, said processor executing said machine instruction to implement a plurality of
8 functions, including:

9 (i) enabling a user to select a database record corresponding to a
10 previously developed menu from the menu database, said ~~desired menu~~ previously developed menu
11 including a plurality of menu items, the previously developed menu having been saved as a database
12 record that can be used in conjunction with a menu template that defines a format of the previously
13 developed menu, and a menu template modifier, to re-create the previously developed menu, in order
14 to reduce an amount of memory required to store the previously developed menu;

15 (ii) using [a] the menu template that defines [a] the format of the desired
16 menu, [a] the menu template modifier, and [a] the database record included in selected from the menu
17 database, recreating the ~~desired menu~~ previously developed menu, said database record including
18 data that define an appearance and functional parameters of the menu items;

19 (iii) displaying said ~~desired menu~~ re-creation of the previously developed
20 menu to the user, and enabling the user to select at least one of a plurality of menu items, the data
21 defining each menu item in [a] the database record specifying any events associated with the menu
22 item; and

23 (iv) enabling at least one of a plurality of events associated with the menu
24 item[[s]] that was selected by the user to occur.

25 55. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 54, wherein said menu template formats a
26 layout of the menu items included in the ~~desired menu~~ re-creation of the previously developed menu to
27 generally duplicate a layout of a plurality of keys on at least a portion of a keyboard input device, so that
28 there is a one-to-one relationship between each menu item and a corresponding one of the plurality of
29 keys in said at least the portion of the keyboard input device.

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1 56. (Original) The system of Claim 55, wherein said at least the portion of keys comprises a
2 numeric keypad of a keyboard.

3 57. (Currently Amended) A method for utilizing a plurality of menus to access selected
4 data in a menu database opened with a database program, each menu being configured to be
5 ~~displayed to a user in its entirety at the same time~~ simultaneously display all menu items
6 corresponding to that menu, comprising the steps of

7 (a) ~~providing a menu template that defines a format for each of the plurality of~~
8 ~~menus, a menu template modifier, and at least one menu database comprising a plurality of database~~
9 ~~records, each database record comprising sufficient data to enable said menu template modifier to~~
10 ~~generate a unique menu based on said menu template and the data in each database record, the menu~~
11 ~~thus generated including a plurality of menu items~~ providing a plurality of database records, a menu
12 template, and a menu template modifier, such that each database record:

13 (i) corresponds to a previously developed menu that includes a plurality of
14 menu items; and

15 (ii) can be used to re-create the corresponding previously developed menu
16 for display to a user, by using the menu template modifier to modify the menu template in accord
17 with the contents of the database record, the menu template defining the format of the previously
18 developed menu;

19 (b) enabling a user to select a unique database record corresponding to a
20 previously generated menu from the menu database;

21 (c) using said menu template modifier, said menu template, and the unique
22 selected database record ~~corresponding to the previously generated menu~~ to re-create the previously
23 generated menu corresponding to the selected database record, the unique selected database record
24 defining an appearance and a functionality of the menu items included within the previously
25 generated menu corresponding to the selected database record;

26 (d) displaying the ~~re-created~~ recreation of the previously generated menu
27 corresponding to the selected database record to a user to enable the user to select at least one of said
28 plurality of menu items, ~~said menu items that is selected having a database record that includes at~~
29 ~~least one event associated with the menu item~~ data in the selected database record including at least
30 one event associated with said plurality of menu items; and

1 (e) in response to the menu item being selected by the user, causing said at least
2 one event ~~included in the database record~~ associated with the menu item that was selected, to occur.

3 58. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of Claim 52, wherein the machine
4 instructions, when executed by a processor, further cause the actuation of a specific key to execute an
5 action by accessing data in the ~~plurality of database records~~ database record corresponding to the
6 ~~desired menu~~ previously generated menu to enable the action to be executed.